



The 2026 (15th Annual) HESPERO BALLOON RACE and Corn Roast

Cliff and Sheri Skocdopole would like to invite all of you to our 15th annual balloon get together at Hespero, Alberta starting September 4th through to September 7th. This is September Labor Day weekend.

Hespero is in a farm community clustered with oil and gas wells in west central Alberta. It is located 30 minutes west of Red Deer on #11 highway. Sylvan Lake and Rocky Mountain House are both within 25 minutes away. Hespero Airport is all grass and can function as a camping spot for tenting and RV trailers. We will have portable washroom facilities but limited showers. Our kitchen facilities are limited but we do have hot water and sink. We do have large BBQ's and lots of refrigerator space for food storage and those cold drinks.

The flying events will take place at or near Hespero Airport.

For pilots, it is listed in the Canadian Flight Supplement under "Hespero".

This is not a busy runway and is privately owned so we have our freedom to come and go as we please.

Propane will be for sale at Hespero airport at a wholesale prices.

The schedule of events (see schedule) will consist of some fun flights, perhaps a competition flight (Hare and Hound), a timed long/short jump, a crew competition, and some fun socializing.

We have six planned weather permitting flights.

The details of the competition flight will be handed out at the briefing.

If you want to have ownership of that great Hespero trophy all it takes is a \$20.00 pilot entry fee and winning the competition for entering long/short jump, winner takes all money and bragging rights!

This year we are also helping to celebrate the Calgary Balloon Clubs 50th anniversary.

Along with our event, the club will be hosting the Alberta Championships and 50th Anniversary flying tasks for a chance to shake the dust of the Trophy and crown a new winner. Plus some silent auction items and club sale items to be purchased.

There are also weekend events like farmers markets on Friday and Saturday at nearby towns.

As part of history on the September long weekend we will be having the long time “Rolling Hills Corn Roast” on Saturday evening.
Come and check out our Corn Roaster!

There will be trophies, prizes, and a chance to win the propane you used during the weekend event.

ACCOMMODATIONS

For those of you that are not camping and will be staying at a motel, Sylvan Lake will be busy that weekend so if you decide to stay there you should book early. Rocky Mountain House has lots of motels.

They are both 30 to 40 KM away. We would advise booking early at any of these places. For the campers we will have power hook up from Gensets running. There will be enough power outlets for campers, each with at least a 15-amp service. Please bring extensions cords if you have them as that is what we may be short on. Water hook ups or sewer hookups are not available but there will be a water hose to fill up trailers and jugs and we will have a sewer truck lined up to come and empty trailers on Sunday. Please let us know ahead of time if you are camping so we make sure we know how much room will be required.

MEALS

We must, of course, charge a fee to help offset some costs. We are trying to make this as economical as possible but also try to keep the workload down for individuals, so they all have time to join in the festivities. **Our weekend rate is \$80.00.** We have the option to pay in-day charges as some people may only be in attendance for one day or part of the weekend.

We ask everyone to bring their own meat for the Saturday evening meal. We will have burgers and hot dogs available in case you are unable to.

And please bring either a salad, or dessert for Saturday evening’s meal.

Please RSVP what you can bring.

(Leftovers from this for Sunday afternoon meal)

We have lots of fridge space at the hanger, grill space, and BBQ ovens for reheating.

The way we lay out the meals along with individual day prices (for those attending only part of the weekend) and are as follows:

Friday evening: Hamburgers and hot dogs and buns with condiments available to throw on BBQ. If you want something different you will have to have to supply your own

\$8.00 for the day/per person

Saturday: Early morning before flight is coffee and donuts (supplied)

Hot breakfast cooked by Neil and Tabi after the flight.
Lunch on your own (Barbeque available with Burgers and hot dogs supplied)
Late afternoon supper everyone supplies their own meat. (Barbeque available).
We will supply the “balloon burner corn” and baked potatoes.

\$34.00 for the day/per person

Sunday: early morning before flight is coffee and donuts (supplied)
Hot breakfast cooked by Neil and Tabi after flight.
Lunch on your own (Barbeque available with Burgers and hot dogs supplied)
Late afternoon supper is Chicken wings and Homemade fries (supplied)

\$34.00 for the day/per person

Monday: early morning before flight is coffee and donuts (supplied)
Hot breakfast cooked by locals after flight.

\$17.00 for the day/per person

PAY FOR THE WHOLE WEEKEND **\$80.00** per person.

Passenger or invited friends Breakfast \$17.00 per person.
Passenger or invited friends on Saturday or Sunday evening meals \$17.00 per person.
(Please try to give us notice if you have invited passengers or friends to come for these meals)

Everyone BYOB and refreshments!

If you have any questions, call Cliff at 403-357-8266 or email at cliff@skocdopole.com
or Sheri at csskoc@gmail.com